

NEWPORT & GWENT PHILATELY

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News of Members

Henry Frederick (Harry) Workman passed away on 8 July at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Harry had been a regular member of the club since 1993 and could always be relied on to help out at events, most recently the 2014 Autumn Day. On the right with John Perry (left) at the Rhiwderin Inn for our meal.



Meetings

We had a good write-up in the Autumn 2015 ABPS News, including my photo from the ladies' night (see Newsletter 53).

On 24 June we had our annual visit from the Barry stamp club, at which Alan Rosser and Brian Brandon entertained. This was followed by a bring and buy at which Roy Holliss also attended with his rummage boxes. We then had one of our occasional meetings that updated members on developments in computing.

The new season started on 16 September with displays by members of their new acquisitions. For the visit by the Cardiff club, we had displays by Paul Clarke, Bill Hicks and Jan Kramer. Our first visiting speaker of the season was Mike Breward who talked about the history of the helicopter. October ended with a further bring an

buy evening.

Visits

John Perry visited the Cardiff club in September to give an informal seminar on judging, which resulted in a lot of questions and lively discussion. He also was the judge for the Bristol and District Federation nine sheet competition in October, which attracted 19 entries, including a most impressive display of New Zealand by Neil Jones, the Bristol president who is also a member of our club.

Martyn Britton, Bev Davies and John Perry visited the Barry club on 26 October, entertaining members there with a wide range of material from ships with Newport paquebot marks, Hell and Paradise, Leipzig fairs, early Fiji postmarks and Danish special cancellations. We have visits to Cardiff and Bridgend scheduled for the new year and hope that other members can join what are most enjoyable evenings and a chance to meet up with members of other clubs.

Juniors

Bev Davies is recommencing the lunchtime club at the Dell School in Chepstow in November. We hope to get the children to produce four sheet entries for Stamp Active and eight sheet entries for the South Wales Convention, building on the success of the one page competition last season.

Stamp News

Rogiet mobile post office started on 7 September 2015 at the Community Hall Car Park. This replaces the in-store post office in Rogiet that ceased operating some time ago.



The van visits Rogiet on Wednesdays (9 to 11:30 am) and Fridays (11 am to noon). As a result the timing of visits to Parc Seymour, Tintern and Devauden changed. The only evidence that the postmark is from Rogiet is the



date: if it is a Wednesday it is Rogiet as that is the only location visited on that day. The postmark shown here is from Wednesday 14 October 2015.

Other Monmouthshire post offices continue to be at risk with regular closures. This year we have seen Dingestow (Monmouth) close in April and Penperlleni (Pontypool) close on 11 June. There was one opening with the NISA store at Croespenmaen (Crumlin) on 25 March replacing the Oakdale post office that closed at the end of 2014. I am grateful for Ken Smith's jottings in the WPHS Newsletter for this information.

The latest possible candidate for closure is Magor on 4 January 2016 as a direct result of the Post Office Limited "Network Transformation Process" according to Councillor Frances Taylor.

Martin Britton and John Perry attended the Welsh Postal History Society weekend at Tan y Bwlch in June. Both of us showed different aspects of Newport shipping. John Perry attended the Conwy meeting in October, where there were interesting displays of Ruthin and Beaumaris.

Following the Conwy meeting, John Perry attended a meeting of the Criccieth club during a week's holiday in North Wales. A lucky find in a charity shop added a new item to my library of philatelic fiction, *Bloodhounds* by Peter Lovesey. This is a crime thriller centring round the theft of the first Penny Black on cover from the Bath Postal Museum.

The annual Newport Scout and Guide post stamps were announced on 17 October 2015. This year the stamps are self-adhesive for the first time. Nine of the designs remain unchanged from 2014, although some sponsors have changed and the price has risen from 20p to 25p. The new design is of *Gilligan's Island* replacing *The Wave* sculpture.



Royal Mail is producing postmarks for each Victoria Cross awarded in the first world war. I can trace only one potential Monmouthshire postmark and that will not be until 1918 for John

Henry Williams. If anyone is aware of others for Monmouthshire I would be pleased to receive information.

Federation News

The Federation annual convention at the end of May, saw Newport gaining two firsts, Les Ashton-Smith with his thematic entry on the German Shepherd Dog and John Perry with the Finland postal service during the second world war. John Perry also gained the award for the best in show. Our third entry was Diane Cannard's Red Cross in Africa excellent thematic display.



The Newport club took tables at the Federation Autumn Day hosted by the Barry club. This was an excellent venue, although difficult to reach without a car. We had a most enjoyable day with excellent refreshments provided by the Barry club. The only disappointment was the low attendance.

John Perry chaired the South Wales Federation AGM with Martyn Britton and Bev Davies. John Perry was elected as chairman, Graham Bean stood down as vice-chairman and Bev Davies was Federation Junior Officer. Of note is that the venue for the annual convention is at risk following a decision by the Neath Port Talbot council to redevelop the Princess Theatre site in Port Talbot. However, the 2016 Convention day is confirmed at the Theatre on 21 May 2016. The 2016 Autumn Day will also be in Port Talbot.

On the morning of the AGM, there was a range of displays by members, with the three from Newport being Monmouthshire post offices, Scandinavian ships with Welsh paquebot marks and Leipzig fairs.

To catch up with news of the Federation and its clubs, I put the Federation Newsletter on the website <http://fswps.weebly.com/>. Our own website is a mine of local philatelic information: <http://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/>.

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